



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vargas Pleads Guilty in Pipe Bomb Case

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on July 26, 2002, Gerald Vargas, 38, of Phoenix, Arizona, pled guilty to Possession of an Unregistered Destructive Device on the third day of trial, in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona. No pleas agreements were made by the government in this case.

Vargas, had been charged with violating Title 26 of the United States Code, Section 5845(a) (8) and (f)(1)(A). Vargas was arrested with co-defendant Chad Schaub by Phoenix police officers during a felony stop. Following the arrest, officers conducted a search of the van and discovered a pillowcase containing numerous pipe bombs. Vargas admitted to having possessed the pipe bombs while being interviewed by ATF agents. The bombs were made of PVC pipe and metal pipe and one of the bombs had nails or nail-like material in it.

After the pipe bombs were rendered safe and processed for evidence by Phoenix bomb techs and ATF special agents, it was determined that nine of the 10 devices were constructed in such a way to meet the definition of a destructive device and appeared to contain the necessary explosives to function as a bomb.

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A conviction for Possessing of an Unregistered Destructive Device carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, a \$250,000.00 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Carroll on October 21st, 2002 at 1:00 p.m.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Phoenix Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by Al Stooks, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR02-399-PHX
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